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News Release

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Domestic dispute leads to stabbing, arrest

'ELE'ELE – A 33-year-old 'Ele'ele man is in police custody after he stabbed his girlfriend in the parking lot of 'Ele'ele Shopping Center Sunday afternoon.

The female victim was hospitalized with serious injuries.

Police were called to the scene at approximately 2:15 p.m. Sunday after multiple witnesses reported seeing a couple sitting in a gold Lexus sedan in the parking lot near Ace Hardware. The female, who was seated in the driver's seat, and her male passenger were involved in a verbal altercation, when bystanders say it appeared the male began stabbing her.

The woman ran from the vehicle and the suspect fled the scene on foot. Upon officers' arrival, the female victim was located near the entrance to Big Save being tended to by bystanders.

The woman, age 18, of Kekaha, suffered a single puncture wound to her stomach and was transported to Wilcox Hospital in stable condition.

Police located the suspect shortly after the incident at a home on Ulupua Road in 'Ele'ele.

Christopher Cruz, age 33, was subsequently arrested on suspicion of second-degree attempted murder. Cruz has not yet been formally charged and is currently in police custody in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

This case remains under police investigation. Anyone with information is urged to contact Detective Chris Jenkins at 241-1680. Those wishing to remain anonymous may call Kaua'i CrimeStoppers at 246-8300.

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